

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

7. (Amended) The method of preventing defective germination or growth of a plant as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 6,] claim 1, wherein the plant seed encapsulated in an aqueous gel capsule is a pelletized seed.

Please add new claims 8-12 as follows:

- -8. The method of preventing defective germination or growth of a plant as claimed in claim 2, wherein the plant seed encapsulated in an aqueous gel capsule is a pelletized seed. - -

- -9. The method of preventing defective germination or growth of a plant as claimed in claim 3, wherein the plant seed encapsulated in an aqueous gel capsule is a pelletized seed. - -

- -10. The method of preventing defective germination or growth of a plant as claimed in claim 4, wherein the plant seed encapsulated in an aqueous gel capsule is a pelletized seed. - -

- -11. The method of preventing defective germination or growth of a plant as claimed in claim 5, wherein the plant seed encapsulated in an aqueous gel capsule is a pelletized seed. - -

- -12. The method of preventing defective germination or growth of a plant as claimed in claim 6, wherein the plant seed encapsulated in an aqueous gel capsule is a pelletized seed. - -